



Illinois Winter Weather Fact Sheet



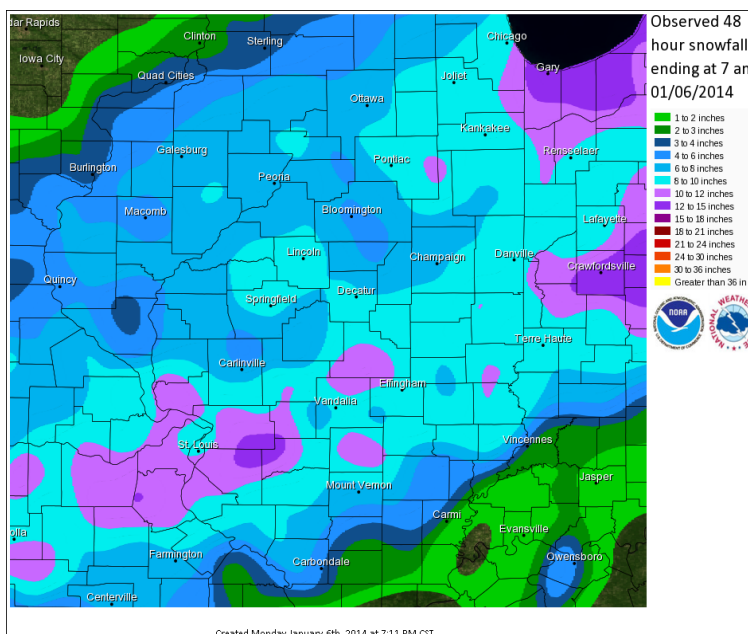
Cold Temperatures

- ❖ A total of **163 people have died from exposure** to cold temperatures in the state of Illinois since 1995. This is much more than severe thunderstorms and tornadoes (59 deaths), floods (32 deaths) and lightning (19 deaths) – combined during the same period.
- ❖ The coldest temperature on record in the state occurred on **January 5, 1999** when the mercury dipped to **-36 °F near Congerville** in Woodford County!

Winter Storms

- ❖ Illinois normally experiences five severe winter storms each year. During the **winter of 2013-14** there were **11 severe winter storms**
- ❖ As few as two (*in the winters of 1921-1922 and 1980-1981*), and as many as 18 winter storms (*in the winters of 1977-1978 and 1981-1982*) have occurred. There has not been a winter in Illinois without a winter storm in the past century.
- ❖ The worst winter storm this past year was January 4-5, 2014. Heavy snow ranged from 6 to 14 inches across all of central and eastern Illinois, with near blizzard conditions and drifts of 6 to 8 feet deep in some rural areas!

This was followed by bitter cold temperatures ranging from -8 to -17 °F with wind chill values of -30 to -44 °F!

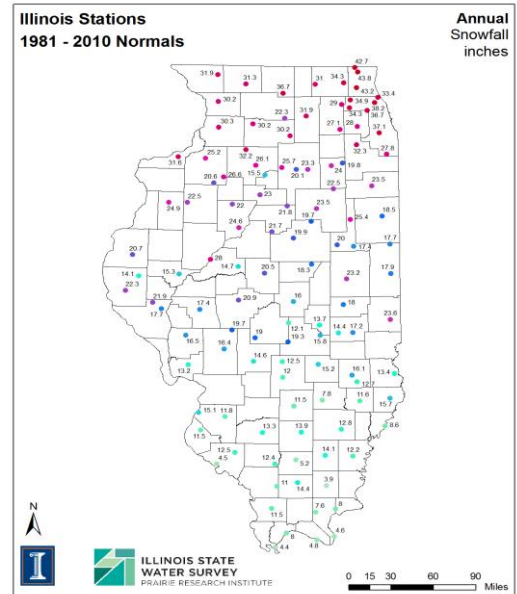


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- ❖ The winter of 2013-14 went into the record books as one of the coldest and snowiest winters on record in parts of central and eastern Illinois. Observers in Chenoa, Lincoln and Tuscola reported the coldest winter temperatures on record. Total winter snowfall was the highest on record at Farmer City, Lacon, Lincoln, Mattoon, and Bloom

Snowfall

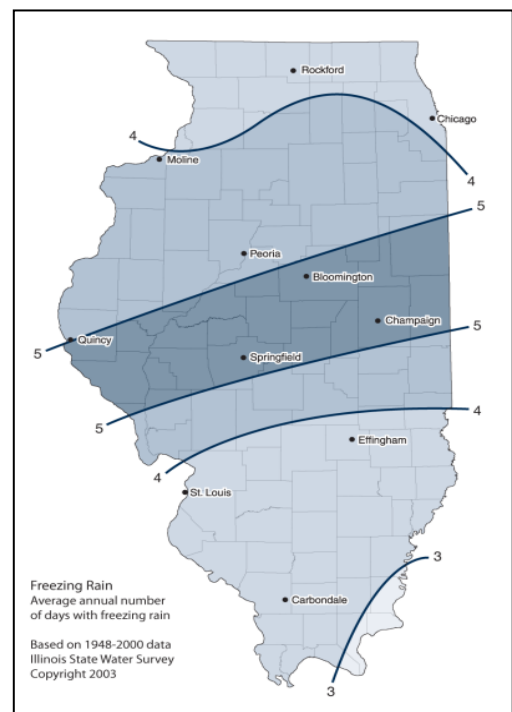
- ❖ Average annual snowfall ranges from nearly 40 inches of snow north of Chicago, to as little as 5 inches in the southern tip of Illinois. In central Illinois the average is 20 to 25 inches, while areas south of I-70 normally experience 12 to 16 inches. *(Click image to right)*



[\(Click here for larger image\)](#)

Ice Storms

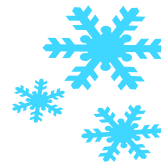
- ❖ Locations from just south of Quincy, through Lincoln, to Watseka experience more freezing rain and ice storms than any other part of the state, on average. *(Click image to right)*
- ❖ Several major ice storms have impacted Illinois recently. The most recent was in southeast Illinois on Feb. 1-2, 2011 which created week-long power outages and nearly \$10 Million damage to power poles and lines, as well as trees.



[\(Click here for larger image\)](#)



WINTER WEATHER IMPACTS



- ❖ The economic impact of winter weather in the United States ranges from \$3 Billion during a “normal” season, to \$6 Billion during an active winter season. The Groundhog Day Blizzard and Ice Storm of 2011 produced more than \$2 Billion in damages alone, and resulted in 36 direct fatalities.
 - ❖ About 70% of the people that are killed or injured due to winter storms are in automobiles. About 25% of the people that are killed or injured in winter storms are caught out in the storm with no place to take shelter.
 - ❖ In Illinois, snow and ice covered roads result in an average of 27,970 vehicle crashes each year. The accidents also produce an average of 4,318 injuries and 49 fatalities annually.
 - ❖ The **National Weather Service (NWS) in Lincoln** has given advance warning for all winter weather storms (heavy snow and significant icing) in central and southeast Illinois **93%** of the time the past 10 years, with an average of **20 hours advance notice**, and a false alarm rate **only around 30%**.
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More Information

Visit our web page or social media for more information about winter storm safety, or to track forecast winter storms:

- ***NEW*** web page to monitor forecast winter storms and get winter road conditions: www.weather.gov/Lincoln/?n=winter_monitor
- ***NEW*** web page for all things related to winter weather preparedness: www.weather.gov/Lincoln/?n=winter-prep
- Social media page to follow NWS Lincoln Facebook, You Tube and Twitter Feeds: www.weather.gov/Lincoln/?n=ilx_social_media